



State of Connecticut

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Public Hearing Testimony
March 16, 2009
Judiciary Committee
Kevin Witkos, State Senator, 8th District

Re: Senate Bill 533 – An Act Concerning Notification of the Release of a Registered Sexual Offender into the Community.

Good Morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, Senator Kissel, Representative O'Neil and members of the Judiciary Committee.

I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill #533 *An Act Concerning Notification of the Release of a Registered Sexual Offender into the Community*. I first want to start out for thanking you for raising this bill and holding a public hearing on it today. SB 533 requires that the Department of Public Safety notify the Superintendent of Schools (by certified mail) information relative to a registrant on the sex offender list who will reside or intends to reside in that specific community.

Police are mandated by law to notify the Superintendent of Schools when an individual between the ages of seventeen to twenty-one commits a Class A Misdemeanor and/or a Felony. Verbal notification must be made no later than the end of the next school day and written notification within seventy-two hours. One understands the public safety/security aspect however; those individuals have not been tried or convicted in a court of law. This bill would pertain to those convicted of a sex assault crime and

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required to register as a sex offender in their community. A higher degree of public safety/security is certainly warranted in these cases.

I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.